

City of Fitchburg

FITCHBURG CITY CLERK

Important information Regarding Your Tax Bill

2020 APR 24 AM 11:29

Under "An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting From COVID-19," Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, the City has adopted local options to extend due dates for real and personal property tax payments and applications for exemptions and a waiver of interest on certain municipal tax and other bills paid before June 30, 2020. See below.

**1. The due date of your real and personal property tax bill has been extended to June 1, 2020.** June 1, 2020 is the new due date even if the due date for payment on your enclosed or previously mailed tax bill is May 1, 2020.

**2. The due date for applications for property tax exemptions has also been extended to June 1, 2020.** June 1, 2020 is the new due date even if the due date for applications on your enclosed or previously mailed tax bill is April 1, 2020.

This extension applies to applications for the exemptions listed in the third paragraph of G.L. c. 59, § 59, including exemptions for;

- seniors, surviving spouses, minor children of deceased parent (17, 17C, 17C1/2 and 17D);
- financial hardship – activated military, age and infirmity (18);
- veterans, surviving spouses and surviving parents (22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 22F and 22H);
- blind persons (37 and 37A);
- seniors (41, 41B, 41C and 41C1/2);
- surviving spouse and minor children of firefighter/police officer killed in line of duty (42 and 43);
- certain eligible seniors (52);
- certain eligible properties with septic systems (53);
- National Guard and reservists on active duty in foreign countries (56); and
- local option tax rebates (57).

This extension also automatically applies to applications for residential exemptions under G.L. c. 59, § 5C, for small commercial exemptions under G.L. c. 59, § 5I and for deferrals under G.L. c. 59, § 5, clauses 41A (seniors) and 18A (poverty or financial hardship due to change to active military).

**3. Waiver of Interest for Certain Payments received before June 30, 2020.** The City has waived interest and other penalty for late payment of any excise, tax, betterment assessment or apportionment thereof, water rate or annual sewer use or other charge added to a tax for any payments with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 where payment is made late but before June 30, 2020. This applies to late payments of bills that have a due date of March 10, 2020 or after, when such bills are paid late but paid before June 30. This waiver of interest does not apply to bills with due dates before March 10, 2020 or if the bill is not paid before June 30.

**NOTE - If the municipal offices are closed on the June 1, 2020 extended due date for tax payments or filing of exemption applications as a result of the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus or the declaration of a state of emergency issued by the governor on March 10, 2020, the due dates for tax payments and applications for exemptions are not extended – they will be due on June 1, 2020 even if the municipal offices are closed. (See section 10(b) of the Act.)**

Payments may be made online at <http://www.ci.fitchburg.ma.us/500/Online-Payment-Center>, by mail, or at the drop box outside the city offices at 166 Boulder Drive. Payments must be made by check or money order. No cash is accepted at this time. Questions on payments may be directed to the Treasurer's Office at 978-829-1830.

Applications for property tax exemptions may be mailed or put into the drop box outside the city offices at 166 Boulder Drive. Questions on property tax exemptions may be directed to the Assessors' Office at 978-829-1860.